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AVIATION AND AIRCRAFT JOURNAL



Aerial View of the Airship Port at Howden, England

VOLUME XI
Number 2

SPECIAL FEATURES

NEW FRENCH COMMERCIAL AIRPLANES
INDUCTION SYSTEMS
"WHO'S WHO IN AMERICAN AERONAUTICS"
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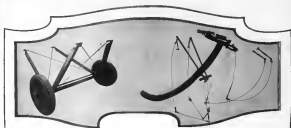


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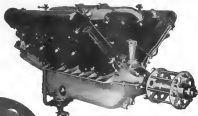
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" " " "	200 H.P.	200 H.P.
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AVIATION AND AIRCRAFT JOURNAL

Member of the Aeronautics Administration

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Vol. XI

JULY 31, 1931

No. 2

Ratify the Air Navigation Convention

OF the unified powers of the world today the United States stands substantially alone outside the agreement which governs international air travel throughout the world. The International Air Navigation Convention drafted at Versailles and now ratified by almost forty independent and sovereign states lays down in detail the rules under which international air travel can be carried on. It provides for the licensing of aircraft, for the inspection and certification as regards structural strength and safety, for the licensing of personnel, and for the standardization of warning signals and meteorological information. Most significant of all, it provides that every ratifying state accepts some form of the European methods which adopted a protocol drawn up for their benefit undertaken to prohibit the passage over its territory of the aircraft of non-ratifying states. The United States thus stands today with Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Turkey, and Russia as an aerial outlaw, unable legally to communicate directly with any of the allied nations.

Somewhat of the difficulty which arises from this we have already seen in the hindrance to the traffic between this country and Canada, and we shall see more so long as the Air Navigation Convention remains unratified, for it is now a document fully established in practice and it has given rise to and furthered a working scheme of air travel which could hardly exist without it.

Designers as Pilots

THERE has long been dispute among aeronautical engineers as to the wisdom of combining engineering work with practical piloting. A certain number of designers have always held that they can do their work most effectively by staying out of the air and trusting to the reports of professional test pilots. Their major ground for this belief is that the average designer cannot hope to become a crash pilot and that it is better for him to depend on the report of a good test flyer rather than spend his time in becoming a mediocre pilot of training machines, a phase of his education which might result merely in his becoming disgraced without adding anything useful to his technical knowledge.

Another school, however, and probably the larger one, at least in European countries, holds that an engineer can reach his full effectiveness unless he is able to carry through all the work connected with the airplane from start to finish and that no designer can get the pilot's viewpoint or can design an airplane to suit the pilot, which must in every case be the final aim, if he depends solely on the statement of others and never gets into the air himself. Certainly a little flying experience will give an engineer a much clearer idea of what stability and control mean and what is to be sought for in those respects, as well as of the proper layout of an airplane for the pilot's convenience, than can result of study in the ground.

Furthermore, it is universally recognized and eventually insisted that pilots are so rare that there are never anywhere near enough to satisfy the demand. Men like Walter Schneider and Harry Hawker of the Republic Co., to mention only two among the more conspicuous names, are few and far between. While there is an almost unlimited number of men who can fly with great skill and who can perform any desired evolutions, not one out of twenty of these men can tell clearly on returning to the ground what has happened during the flight or give a description of the behavior of the machine which will really guide its designer in seeking to improve it.

The number of examples of designers who are also crash pilots is surprising, as is the high average rank of such men among engineers. Those who have been acquainted with the Fokker airplane know its inception credit its considerable qualities largely to the great skill as a pilot of Anthony Fokker, who is said to be one of the most skilled fliers in the world in every sense and on every type of airplane. Other engineers who fly occasionally at the present time are Captain Bennett of the United Fruit, and Captain De Harland, as well as all of the officers in the Engineering Division of our own Air Service, to say nothing of pioneers such as Wright, Curtiss, Martin, Sopwith, Farman, and Roe, who began as self-taught pilots but who have since grown up active flying.

Parachute Jumping

WE are a nation fascinated by the spectacular. It is nowhere more so than when the spectacular appears as long as it is on earth.

As far as things aeronautical are concerned one of the latest spectacular feats attracting the attention of the public is the high altitude parachute jump. Excitement to make one another learn parachute jumpers to "step-out" from ever higher altitudes. In the present of the so-called world's records we are thus losing sight of fundamentals.

The fundamental requirement of the parachute is that it shall open. The next requirement is that it shall open quickly, and then enable the jumper to jump from low altitudes. However paradoxical it may sound, it is more important that a parachute be usable at 300 ft. altitude than at 30,000 ft., because at the low altitude the airplane may be hopelessly out of control while at the high altitude there is plenty of time and space to maneuver. High altitude parachute jumps are very spectacular, but the low altitude jump is a far more convincing demonstration of the equipment's worth under conditions such as may occur in an emergency.

Those responsible for the development of the parachute should realize that high altitude jumps give the public an impression of the great hazard involved in that act rather than of its practical utility in case of danger.

Induction Systems *

By T. L. Sherman, R. E.

The very rapid development of the aerial arm of the fighting forces during the past few years has resulted in a constant demand for increase of engine performance and output. Maximum efficiency and reliability were sought after regardless of expense or expenditure of human energy. As the motorist and its attendant induction system are largely responsible for the volumetric efficiency, intake mass effective pressure, and fuel consumption, they received a proportionally just amount of attention from the experimental point of view.

It is not proposed, however, that the design of carburetors themselves, but rather to examine the positioning or method of mounting, and the carburetor will be regarded simply as a mass mounted upon the induction system. The reference and criticism are intended to be of a general nature only, and, unless strikingly positive, no attempt will be made to consider details.

Induction Piping and Carburetors

All carburetor-induction systems consist of a fuel-metered series of jets situated on a comparatively short choke tube which has a more or less direct connection with the inlet ports of the cylinders by the induction pipes. Any additional means having a comparatively larger volume than the intake pipe system themselves, and which may be introduced in series with the intake, will be referred to as an induction chamber. Most frequently the fuel metering is in the inlet ports of all or certain groups of cylinders are installed as a single cast or welded unit, which is generally called the induction manifold. Fig. 1 shows an arrangement for the disposition of the parts referred to and is intended to supplement the definitions given above.

It is well known that for any definite engine speed there is an equally definite length of induction pipe of arbitrary cross section area which will give maximum power. This statement applies, of course, to one particular cylinder and not of food here and there, and does not necessarily follow with another cylinder of the same bore but having a different stroke. Furthermore, the experimentally determined length will be affected by the disposition of valves and the timing schedule. For any other engine speed a different length would be required. It will be appreciated, therefore, that it is impossible for a fixed length of pipe to give maximum results over a wide range of speed, and when two or more cylinders are fed from the same induction pipe the problem becomes more complicated. The designer, therefore, usually attempts to shorten and so direct a connection to each cylinder as possible, thus reducing induction to a minimum.

The timing of the engine is so arranged that interference between cylinders is reduced as far as possible. The cross sectional area of the induction pipe should be such that the velocity of the mixture is sufficiently high to prevent deposition and condensation without involving too large a friction head. The writer is of opinion that the allowable velocity has within a fairly wide range, no conditions vary so considerably in different designs. Test results would indicate that values between 120 ft. and 200 ft. per minute are satisfactory. There have been cases in which speeds as high as 250 ft. per minute have been used with good results.

Composite and variable are the conditions that it is difficult to carry out comparative analyses with any conclusions possible for the conditions arrived at. For fuel and velocity related engines, in which each cylinder is fed through an exposed pipe arranged in radial fashion and attached to a restricted induction chamber, higher gas speeds are required than are necessary in water-cooled V engines having submerged, water-jacketed pipes. This does not apply to an induction chamber which forms part of the main body of the engine and is not situated in an exposed position. In these high induction pipe a high gas speed is necessary on account of the

friction head introduced, whereas with very short pipes the gas speed is unimportant and may be even lower than the maximum figure quoted above. The most important feature to be considered in any multi-cylinder engine are absence of mutual interference and freedom from deposition and condensation.

The conditions under which some engines operate require also maximum acceleration and flexibility over a wide range of speed, and, although these are fundamentally dependent upon characteristics of the carburetor itself, the induction piping plays an important part. Short lengths are free from movements of comparatively large volumes of mixture and so enable the cylinders to take instantaneous advantage

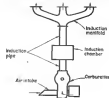


FIG. 1

of the opening of the throttle. The writer considers that the design of an engine is a direct measure of simplicity of induction pipe layout; the carburetor and induction pipe are equally responsible for flexibility. Fuel consumption is, in the majority of engines, a function of carburetor design, as seen in the variation of fuel consumption with altitude.

For the purpose of comparing the various induction pipe layouts in use, engines will be divided according to form into the following groups:

1. Six-cylinder-in-line engines.
2. Eight-cylinder 60 deg. V engines.
3. Twelve-cylinder V engines.
4. Fixed radial engines.
5. Rotary radial engines.

Six-Cylinder In-Line Engines

Figs. 2, 3, and 4 may be considered as indicative of the diversity of opinion of designers as to the arrangement of induction piping for a six-cylinder engine. The comparative test figures given in Table I are in accordance with what might have been foreseen.

It would appear that the use of parallel feeders from a single carburetor is a makeshift in art good, in that there is a tendency to cause disturbance at the point where the two

TABLE I. TEST FIGURES OF SIX-CYLINDER ENGINES

Engine	Compression Ratio	Bore and Stroke	Power (hp)	B.M.E.P. (lb./sq. in.)	Specific Fuel Consumption (lb./hp-hr.)
Pratt	4.00	4.13 x 5.00	177	17.7	74
Blackburn	4.00	4.13 x 5.00	184	18.4	77
RAF	4.00	4.13 x 5.00	210	21.0	77
RAF	4.00	4.13 x 5.00	210	21.0	77
RAF	4.00	4.13 x 5.00	210	21.0	77



FIG. 2 BMW 230 Hc ENGINE

feeders meet. If at this point there is introduced a chamber of suitable capacity, the results should be improved considerably. The writer puts forward the manifold outlined in Fig. 5 as superior to any of the arrangements previously indicated. Each cylinder should be fed by direct pipe to long as can be arranged conveniently, so that the risk points are situated as much as possible. Sharp bends are, of course, to be avoided.

V Type Engines

With eight-cylinder V engines, it is convenient to mount the carburetor on the beam of a twin and between the two sets of cylinders on account of the space available for a simple layout (see Fig. 6). Test figures on several engines of the type are given in Table II.

The twelve-cylinder engine presents much more scope for induction pipe design. The natural angle for an engine made up of two sets of six cylinders is 60 deg., which provides a very different space for the early satisfactory installation of carburetors and air intakes (see Fig. 7), and this becomes progressively smaller as cylinder bore increases. From the induction standpoint the best method is to mount the carburetor on the outside of the V.

With engines intended for use in single-engine machines, it will be appreciated that it is very troublesome and undesirable to lead the exhaust pipes from the inside of the V to the side of the fuselage. In multi-engine machines there



FIG. 3 PRATT & WHITNEY ENGINE

is normally no real objection, and the inside exhaust pipe is perhaps the better arrangement.

In order to reduce the cross sectional areas presented by the engine, the internal V angle of the carburetor and feeders, which further restricts the space available. Even when permissible, the fitting of inside exhaust pipes to each engine requires a detachable panel on account of trouble caused by the hot exhaust pipes to close proximity to valve springs, etc., and the difficulties of cooling adequately when needed in.

It would appear that the only practicable way to fill all the requirements is to provide a space between the two central cylinders of each block and lead the induction pipes from each set of three cylinders through this space to carburetors mounted outside.

TABLE II. TEST FIGURES OF EIGHT-CYLINDER 60° V ENGINES

Engine	Compression Ratio	Bore and Stroke	Power (hp)	B.M.E.P. (lb./sq. in.)	Specific Fuel Consumption (lb./hp-hr.)
Pratt	4.00	4.13 x 5.00	177	17.7	74
Blackburn	4.00	4.13 x 5.00	184	18.4	77
RAF	4.00	4.13 x 5.00	210	21.0	77
RAF	4.00	4.13 x 5.00	210	21.0	77
RAF	4.00	4.13 x 5.00	210	21.0	77

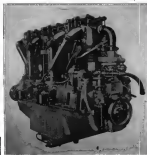


FIG. 4 PRATT & WHITNEY ENGINE

TABLE III. TEST FIGURES OF TWELVE-CYLINDER V ENGINES

Engine	Compression Ratio	Bore and Stroke	Power (hp)	B.M.E.P. (lb./sq. in.)	Specific Fuel Consumption (lb./hp-hr.)
Atlantic	4.00	4.13 x 5.00	177	17.7	74
Blackburn	4.00	4.13 x 5.00	184	18.4	77
RAF	4.00	4.13 x 5.00	210	21.0	77
RAF	4.00	4.13 x 5.00	210	21.0	77
RAF	4.00	4.13 x 5.00	210	21.0	77

Single Type Engines

Engines having blocks in sets of cylinders arranged in two-sets or more form are even more complex than any of the layouts. Only one such engine has, however, reached a sufficiently advanced stage to be referred to in these notes. The scheme selected by the designer is indicated in Fig. 8, and, judged by the performance of this engine, the layout may be regarded as satisfactory. The cylinder block and carburetor design have enabled a very short engine to be built. A single

* From The Automobile Engineer

carburetor feeds on induction pipe, a ducter feeding the other two cylinder blocks.

Radial Type Engines

Radial engines having rotating cylinders are almost always provided with a mechanically-operated air carburetor (Tupper), which feeds a concentric induction chamber through the fixed intake manifold, and from this chamber each cylinder is fed with a separate radial pipe. Fig. 5 indicates the main layout.

In the Chrysler engine the pipes are flattened in the direction of rotation in order to reduce air resistance, and as the Bentley Rotary 1 they are so arranged as to be shaded by the cylinders for the same reason. In the 300 hp. Chrysler the carburetor itself is used as an induction chamber, the pipes are situated in front of the engine. To what extent it is affected by fluctuations of crankcase pressure it is difficult to say. The performance given in Table IV is much below standard.

Among the static radial engines the A.B.C. "Dragonfly" uses a horizontal layout instead of the usual controlled in-



FIG. 5

duction chamber. Each a piston provides considerable surface for exposure, and suffers from condensation trouble, and it is a well known fact that in a fixed radial engine there is a distinct tendency for the lower cylinders to obtain a rich mixture at the expense of the upper, which suffers from burnt-out exhaust valves, and any combination which takes place aggravates these conditions. The use of two carburetors for nine cylinders does not appear to be smart. The Bristol "Dragonfly" engine (Fig. 6) has a central induction chamber, formed with three separate spiral passages, each feeding three cylinders, and each passage having its own carburetor. The scheme is good and much credit is due to its originator.

TABLE IV TEST FIGURES OF RADIAL ENGINES					
Engines	Compression Ratio	Rev. and Stroke	Power (hp.)	Specific Fuel Consumption (lb. per hp. hour)	Specific Power (hp. per cu. ft. per hour)
100 Chrysler	4.48	2,100/16	100	0.45	1.10
Bentley R. 1	8.50	2,000/17.50	300	0.45	1.10
300 Chrysler	7.1	2,000/17.50	300	0.45	1.10

TABLE V TEST FIGURES OF FIXED RADIAL ENGINES					
Engines	Compression Ratio	Rev. and Stroke	Power (hp.)	Specific Fuel Consumption (lb. per hp. hour)	Specific Power (hp. per cu. ft. per hour)
Dragonfly	4.48	2,100/16	100	0.45	1.10

Mounting the Induction Pipes

On account of the low temperatures of the inlet air met with at altitudes and the further cooling which takes place on expansion, it is found necessary to furnish a supply of heat to the induction pipes at these points where combustion or deposition is likely to take place. In water-cooled engines advantage is taken of the temperature of the cooling water, which is led to jackets surrounding the induction pipe at points where the direction of flow of the gas is changed, some of the greatest curved forward in comparison being dependent on such heads. The main/old itself, however, although requiring slight attention in the direction of flow of the mixture, is generally forced to obtain sufficient heat by conduction from the cylinder head.



FIG. 6. BRISTOL "DRAGONFLY" 150 HP. ENGINE

The layout of the induction pipe is only carried out to power depositing and condensation as far as possible, and the temperature of the mixture should not be unduly raised.

In a rotary engine the induction chamber assumes a hemisphere approximately in that of the engine crank case, and no sharp angles or bends to meet the severe exposure of such radial pipes. In the 300 hp. engine, however, the heated air from the cylinder flows over the pipe, but to what extent this is really effective is not definite. As far as performance is concerned, it gives little improvement over the 150 hp. Chrysler, which has induction pipes in a more exposed position, though comparatively close to the cylinder itself. It is clear, however, that the small amount of heat which does reach these pipes is advantageous. The poor results of the 300 hp. Chrysler may be attributed to large amounts in the frontal position adopted for the induction piping.

Radial heads should, of course, be as erect as possible in the atmosphere. The air intake to the carburetor has gener-



FIG. 7. FIAT 800 HP. ENGINE

ally been looked upon as part of the airplane itself on account of the fact that the shape and dimensions are frequently bowed up with the mounting of the engine in the fuselage. Carburetors on the outside of an engine are usually easily dealt with—in fact, there are many cases in which no extra length of piping is required, but when placed in the V there is a frequently great difficulty in providing a satisfactory arrangement.

Mounting of Carburetors

A rather requiring very careful consideration is the mounting of the carburetor itself particularly with regard to controls. When two or more carburetors are used it is clear that the throttle passages should be synchronized as far as possible. For many reasons the layout of intake-controlled mixtures should be straightforward and accessible, with good provision for definite and easy adjustment. The bearings for throttle pins and rods should not be left to the discretion of the airplane manufacturer, but should be provided as an integral part of the engine, with the necessary lugs and bosses cast integral with the crank case or other engine part, and the carburetors should be directly mounted on the engine.

One of the reasons which have contributed against the ideal mounting of carburetors is the use of underhead seats, which by no means invariably suit themselves to real and accessible mounting. The fact that several leading firms have designed and used special carburetors having standard jets, floats, etc., is significant, and further progress in this direction may be anticipated. A further point on which attention might be concentrated is the most thorough accommodation of the fuel. The vast majority of carburetors in use at the present time would supply a jet whose center line is in accord with that of the choke tube, and any adjustments which take place do so largely in water jacketed blocks, but by far the greatest proportion of the fuel is evaporated inside the manifold chamber.

Slight warming of the incoming air only should be effected for all purposes, and this, in addition to more thorough accommodation, should go a long way toward improving distribution, with consequent economy, and the deletion of water-polluted portions of the induction system will be welcome. Curvature in which the carburetor works from the jet at right angles or at 180 deg. in the incoming air have been constructed with varying degrees of success, and it is hoped this further development in this direction will take place, especially in view of the ever-increasing specific gravity of the fuels obtainable.



FIG. 8. LE RHONE 80 HP. ENGINE



FIG. 9. BRISTOL "JUPITER" 450 HP. ENGINE

The Navy and the Air

In connection with the heading tests of various warships by Army and Navy we have it is interesting to hear an appreciation of air forces by "Quarterdeck", a distinguished naval writer who contributes to *The New York Tribune*. Discussing the question as to what constitutes a strong navy this writer expresses the view that battleships, however, strong their armament and powerful their protection be, are weak if they are not supplemented by certain forces that are needed in naval strategy.

"What is a strong navy today?" Quarterdeck asks. "High seas are not strength. A jellyfish is big, but it lacks the aggressiveness and striking power of a little shark. A whale is big, but it may be killed by the combined attack of a little swordfish and a little thresher."

Contrasting the points out that while at the outbreak of the World War submarines and air forces were new or less improved as naval assets, today the situation is totally changed. For both weapons have proved their great value in actual warfare. Speaking of naval aircraft, he says:

"A naval air force to serve as an eye and hand in an absolutely necessary element of a strong navy. It is inaccurate whether or not bombing and torpedo planes can actually sink a 440,000-ton dreadnought. It will be admitted that they cannot do the capital ship. They can and they will sink other naval craft. Enough has been done to prove that destroyers, cruisers, and auxiliary ships in the fleet are in jeopardy of the sea if the enemy commands the air. Small boats will suffice against such results. They have an armor protection. Their upper decks are thus and easily penetrated. One 250-lb. bomb penetrating the machinery or boiler compartment of a destroyer or cruiser will put it out of action."

"There have no doubt been many over-estimates as to the power of the bombing planes and the percentage of hits at surface craft generally will be constantly exaggerated. The dreadnought cannot sink at a 1,600-lb. bomb landing on its deck. It may not be sunk, but it will be badly jarred. It is possible that it may be put out of action, finding barely upon the sea. The surface fleet must not lose control of the air. If it does it cannot longer exist."

Woodland, Calif.

The Yale Flare Club recently conducted a successful series of races at its airdrome four miles from town. Twenty-eight machines assembled for the program. Among the types represented were the Lepere, Prouty Falcon, Pukker, Jantzen, Riffe, Brewster, Curtiss, Martin, Ansaldo and Judd.

The public showed an encouraging interest in the meeting as is evidenced by the fact that 875 passengers were carried by the machines provided for that purpose.

Sonoma, Pa.

The airdrome at this city has been abandoned and is unfit for use.

Oswego, L. I., N. Y.

The New York School of Aeronautics has opened an airdrome at Oswego, L. I., four miles north of Long Beach. The field is T-shaped, length about 1,600 ft. and width 306 ft., but landings should be made on nearly N. to S. as possible. The field can easily be parked out, being the first field on solid land following the road from Long Beach northward, on the western side of the road and between it and the railroad. Fuel and supplies can be obtained in the neighborhood, and a refreshment stand and rest rooms are being erected.

The New York School of Aeronautics will operate several machines on this airdrome during the summer, and intend a welcome to all visitors.

Cleveland, Ohio

The Glenn L. Martin Field is located on the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railway, 1½ miles NE of the main entrance to Cleveland Harbor (Cuyahoga River) and 1 mile E. of Euclid Beach Amusement Park (in upper) Lot 41-42-43-44 on N. Lorain St. 33 miles W. The field is L-shaped, extending 1,500 ft. N.W. and E.E. and 1,200 ft. N.E. and S.W., providing winds W., westerly conditions and wind direction reported near west. Factory facilities and services are available. Address, 35600 N. Clear Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

Cincinnati, Ohio

The field of the Cincinnati Aircraft Co. is temporarily closed. Status will be given when it is reopened.

Seymour, Ind.

An airdrome of 200 acres, part now under cultivation, has been opened by the Western Aircraft Co. at Seymour, Ind., and is open to all pilots. The present field will accommodate machines of any landing speed and has the following facilities: Factory and repairs adjoining auto service, telegraph, telephone, electricity, city water, paved road to edge of field, seven machine walk to center of field.

Indianapolis, Ind.

Speedway Aviation Repair Depot at Indianapolis has been abandoned by the Air Service and is no longer fit for use.

Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind.

The landing field at this place is 100 acres in area and in good condition.

Charlevoix, Mich.

A new airdrome is reported at this place about one-half mile S.W. of Round Lake on the S. side of Carpenter Avenue and the E. side of State Hwy. The field is L-shaped and extends N.W. of a maple and birch grove. The Rose-vell Airplane Co. will operate on this airdrome during the summer.

Derwent, Iowa

The Derwent Automotive School is an active operator at Watkins Field.

Des Moines, Mich.

The Packard Co. makes it known that the recent fire at their establishment did not in any way hamper airdrome facilities. Some old cars should now be returned and the airdrome equipment is still intact and at the service of machines landing there.

St. Joseph, Mo.

The Aviation committee of the Commerce Club is considering several sites for the location of a municipal airdrome the need of which is shown by the fact that the Nebraska Aircraft Corporation, at present using a field at 3000 ft., and Mitchell St. for their work, has declared its intention of changing location unless some suitable municipal airdrome can be found.

Bentley, Va.

A committee of business men are making efforts toward the establishment of a municipal airdrome here.

Duxbury, Mass.

A twenty-acre tract between Saco and Sturgeon lakes has been purchased by the Range Aero Co. for the location of an airdrome at Swandale.

Mansfield, W. Va.

The North American Aerial Transportation Co., R. P. Westworth, president, has established headquarters at Laguna Field here, and will maintain a service to and from Washington.

Minneapolis, Minn.

A recent fire at the plant of the Clinton Northwestern Airplane Co. did damage estimated at \$125,000.

Tempe, Ariz.

The Tempe-St. Marysburg Air Line conducted by A. Fivell is operating with headquarters in this city.

Farm Hills, Wis.

The Commercial Club of this city has established an airdrome for the Air Mail Service. The airdrome is known as Port Bradley Landing Field and lies E. and W.—the direction of the prevailing winds. It is 1200 ft. long and 300 ft. wide, mostly smooth and in the white areas. The soil is of gravel and loam formation which drains well. The field is one mile N. of the city, 300 ft. from the Lincoln Highway, and free to approach from all sides.

The Chicago-St. Louis mail of the Air Mail uses the airdrome which is open to all pilots.

Hickman Hughes, S. I.

The field immediately adjoins the factory of the Wattman Aircraft Co. and has facilities for both land and water machines. The main runway for land machines is a level and smooth area running 2,000 ft. N. and S. by 175 ft. in width. There is also an E. and W. runway 2,000 ft. in length with a usable altitude of about 1,000 ft. The E. and W. runway varies from 300 to 400 ft. in width. Outside of these runways the field is being extended and improved by filling in old drainage ditches.

Yorktown, Va.

The Atlantic Fleet Torpedo Base Squadron is now operating at the naval air station at Yorktown, Va. The field lies on the southern bank of the York River at the mouth of the Potomac Creek, about 5 miles W. of Yorktown. The field is only moderately smooth and landings should be made at the about speed possible. Fuel and oil are obtainable and telegraphic communication has been established. The field can be identified by two large kite balloons launched at the S.W. corner. Landings should not be attempted W. of N. and S. has through the E. hangar.

Bloomington, Ill.

The Shields Air Line, under the direction of H. R. Fowle, owner and founder, is carrying passengers at Forman Field.

Santon, Va.

Shanton's municipal airdrome is now open to pilots. Information as to facilities for repair and equipment is not available.

National Guard Aero Squadrons

A considerable amount of interest is being shown in the organization of aero squadrons among the National Guard. For the most part of this work is being done by the various states with direct assistance from the War Department. The idea underlying the formation of National Guard squadrons is to use the surplus types of machines while creating a reserve of pilots, observers and mechanics which can be called on to work in connection with the Army Air Service.

Of the 100 National Guard units, 10 are authorized to form an aero squadron, the 122nd, with headquarters at Columbia. Tentative organization of this squadron was recently effected at the Columbia Automobile Club where a large conference was recently held. The 42nd Cavalry Aero Club. As soon as the organization is completed it will be submitted to the adjutant general for approval after which the unit will be authorized to proceed.

The Maryland State Guard Air Service recently reached its full commissioned strength of 35 officers.

The Ford Massachusetts Observation Squadron has under construction, three hangars at the Twin City municipal airdrome. Hangars for the Oregon National Guard Aero Squadron are under construction at Vancouver. At a recent meeting of fifty military aviation plans for the establishment of the squadron were put out. These provide for a personnel of 35 officers and 60 enlisted men, and equipment consisting of 5 airplanes, 10 motor trucks, 30 machine guns, three anti-aircraft guns, and the necessary accessories.

The New Jersey National Guard is planning to establish an Aero Squadron with headquarters at Glen Dr.

The Massachusetts National Guard expects to have its First Aero Squadron in operation on July 1, the State Legislature having appropriated a sum of \$25,000 for the maintenance of \$50,000 worth of Air Service equipment stored at Framingham, Mass., which the Army promised to transfer to the State militia. The purchase of this equipment came chiefly through the efforts of Major Leonard H. Manning, chief of the Air Service in the First Corps Area, and of the Airline Club, an organization comprising former Army pilots who now attend to the first.

The squadron will consist of nine airplanes, 25 officers and 60 enlisted men. The equipment which the Army is turning over to the squadron comprises, in addition to a trainer, two trainers, five and six engine observation and transport planes, two of which are 501's and three are Canby 25's.

The Birmingham Flying Club has been authorized in organizing a National Guard Aero Squadron at Alabama.

Two squadrons of the Park Field, Memphis, will be transferred to Birmingham to house the equipment of the squadron. A balloon company will also be established in addition to the Aero Squadron.

The National Guard at Nashville, Tenn., is active plans for substitution for the establishment of an squadron as headquarters of the National Guard aero squadrons. The federal government is considering in the matter of equipment and maintenance.

Aviation in Haiti

Airplane making a photographic map of the entire coastline of the island of Haiti for the coast and geodetic survey, the United States Marine Corps aviation service is engaged in scheduled mail carrying in Haiti, and Santo Domingo, and regular mail trips are now being made from Santo Domingo City, D. R., to Santiago and San Pedro de Macoris, D. R.

The route of Haiti and Santo Domingo, across water and across hills, are really nothing but trails, and while it takes several days to transport mail by old methods, it is a matter of only a few hours to carry the mail by airplane.

Many and many more mail and officials and the two republics find it more convenient to travel by airplane than by the train or automobile service over the rocky roads. Consequently, regular aviation trips and officials trips are now from city to city in Santo Domingo and Haiti by airplane.

New Shipboard Tender

It is reported that the U.S.S. Wright, an oceanic tender of the U.S. Navy, will be placed in commission in August. She will take the place of either the Arcturion or the Harcourt, the present shipboard tenders used with the fleet. The Wright is being built at the Naval Shipyard at Groton, Conn. She will be the first shipboard tender to be built by the U.S. Shipyard Board late in 1919 for the Navy Department to take over one of the Navy's Fleet Corporation's type B ships, and is currently being used as an aircraft tender for kite balloons and seaplanes.

The construction work is now being done by the Tugboat and Launch Dry Dock Co., and includes alterations necessary in its hull for sea service. The Wright is made for the storage of six kite balloons, the inflation and housing of them all in a balloon vault, the necessary hydrogen gas, and for repair plants for the inflation, for hydrogen storage, and for repair plants.

The vessel is being constructed for the storage of kite balloons, and as a tender for seaplanes.

Quarters are arranged to accommodate the ships personnel as well as the crew and the operation of the kite balloons and seaplanes. Berthing and messing accommodations are provided for the captain, one detachment commander, 26 warrant officers, 26 junior officers, 12 warrant officers, 60 staff petty officers and 450 men.

An aerological laboratory and pigeon room are provided; also a photographic laboratory, together with dark room, developing room, and printing apparatus. A hydrographic department, consisting of a hydrographic officer, six hydrographic engineers, hydrographic boats, an air blower for the kite balloons, and two balloon washers will be installed.

The repair facilities consist of the following: six assembly shop, two machine shops, one blacksmith shop, one carpenter and cooper shop, one carpenter and pattern shop, machine shop and motor erecting shop, electrical work shop, fabric and sheet shop. Two balloon washers will be installed.

The battery will consist of 4.5 ft. H. cells, gas, two forward and two aft, also, two machine guns.

The principal dimensions, etc. of the U.S.S. Wright are as follows:

Length over all	445 ft.
Length between perpendiculars	445 ft.
Beam molded	28 ft.
Depth	12 ft.
Displacement (normal)	14,500 tons
Speed (about)	15 knots

Second Ansaldo Cabin Cruiser Arrives

Aero Import Co. of New York recently received the second Ansaldo 6-motor cabin cruiser to arrive in this country. The ship has now been furnished by express to Japan, Hawaii, and other points. The ship is the first of the series of some 100 ships completed a remarkable flight from Llanillo, Nebraska, to Mexico City in a Lincoln Standard machine.

As soon as the ship reaches Mexico, a new stop flag will be attempted from Chihuahua to Mexico City, an entire distance of 2007 miles.

The all-around performance and reliability of these ships was exhibited only in May by a scheduled flight made by Kelly Rogers and his crew. The ship, which was built by the Aero Import Co. of New York and Chicago, which was completed in 7½ hours flying time, as well as in numerous flights in Italy.

Trade Notes

A handsome catalogue prepared by Messrs Wm. Beardmore & Co. makes some very interesting photographs showing the extensive range and activity of the great firm. One large photograph shows the shipboard tender of the U.S. Navy constructed by the Indianapolis Works of the Beardmore company. Other photographs illustrate the rolling mills at Parkhead, large forgings and castings, machine tools and lams, 42 inch horizontal lathes, machine tools and other machinery built by the company. Their catalogue is a survey of a wonderful engineering organization.

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